Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 13765 261045Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /074 W
019469

R 261005Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9200
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Ingalls DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R SAIGON 13765 8/26/71

SUBJ: LATEST PUBLIC ELECTION LINE OF THIEU ADMINISTRATION

1. AUGUST 26 MORNING ISSUES OF AT LEAST SEVEN NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION CARRY LEAD STORIES, INTRODUCED BY BOLD, BANNER HEADLINES, MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 3 AS SCHEDULED:

B. THE ELECTION WILL BE A REFERENDUM SINCE THERE ARE TWO SLATES COMPETING: THIEU-HUONG AND KY-LE: VOTERS WILL HAVE A CHOICE:

C. THE LAW MUST BE CARRIED OUT AND PRESIDENT THIEU WILL FOLLOW THE LAW. SINCE THE KY-LE SLATE APPEARED ON THE SECOND POSTING OF CANDIDATES BY THE SUPREME COURT, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO WITHDRAW:

D. IF PRESIDENT THIEU RESIGNED, HE WOULD BE SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY AND DESTROYING THE REGIME.

E. A POSSIBLE REBUTTAL TO AN AFP STORY THAT ONLY THREE OF TEN GENERALS, NGUYEN VAN VY, HOANG XUAN LAM, AND NGUYEN VAN MINH, WOULD SUPPORT THIEU'S SOLO CANDIDACY WHEN SUMMONED:

(1)

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 13765 261045Z

TO A MEETING AT INDEPENDENCE PALACE, APPEARS IN QUAT CUONG, A RECENT ADMINISTRATION ENTRANT IN THE NEWSPAPER FIELD (WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DEVOTING ITSELF TO A VICIOUS ATTACK ON KY). THIS NEW DAILY CARRIES A HEADLINE CLAIMING THAT "GENERALS STAND BEHIND THIEU AND AGREE ABOUT HOLDING THE ELECTION". A SUBHEAD, AIMED KY, ASSERS: "GEN. TRAN VAN MINH, AIR FORCE COMMANDER, ANNOUNCES THAT THE NATIONAL SITUATION DOES NOT ALLOW PRESIDENT THIEU TO DO OTHERWISE THAN CONTINUE HIS CANDIDACY."
BUNKER

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